



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Wetland Restoration Conversations Continue at Huntley

After hosting a public forum and a well-attended interpretive walk to discuss proposed plans to restore the wetlands at Huntley Meadows Park, the restoration team has scheduled three more opportunities for the public to explore the details of the planned project and to share their ideas and concerns. This series of informational exchanges provides a unique format for the public to engage Fairfax County Park Authority staff, naturalists and representatives from the civil engineering firm hired to develop the restoration plan.

As Huntley Meadows' central wetland area has changed over the years due to siltation from surrounding commercial and housing developments, shifting beaver activity and a transition from open water wetland to what will eventually become wet meadow, the decision was made in 2006 to engage in wetland restoration. This restoration project will include an earthen berm that acts as a water control structure, several wetland pools, a sediment pond and the planting of native plant species.

We encourage residents to attend the next three opportunities to explore the details of the project and to be certain that all viewpoints are heard.

Park Manager Walk & Talk: August 18, 2007 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Attendees should meet at the Visitor Center, then take a walk in the wetland with Huntley Meadows' new manager and spend the evening sharing your ideas and talking one-on-one about wetland restoration or any other park topic.

Public Meeting and Project Plan Presentation: September 21, 2007 from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Groveton Elementary. 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Please join us as we present plans for the wetland restoration project. The program will include time for comments, group discussion, questions and a "what's next" portion to discuss the project schedule.

Park Manager Walk & Talk: October 6, 2007 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Don't miss this final opportunity to learn about the restoration project and to share your ideas and concerns.

Huntley Meadows Park, located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd in Alexandria, is 1,425 acres of diverse habitats including wetlands, meadows and mature forest. Animal residents include fox, deer, beaver, otter and over 200 species of birds. There is a two-thirds mile boardwalk through the wetlands that leads to an observation tower.

For more information please contact Huntley Meadows Park at 703-768-2525 or contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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